

City of Corunna
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, April 4, 2005

Present: Corey, Johnson, Mehigh, Runyan, Sanderson, Spring, Wagner.

Absent: None.

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Merilee Lawson, Assessor/Planner; Judy Horton; Jerry Walden; Cheryl Warren, The Argus Press; Shirley Sanderson; Chief Scott Johnson, Fire Department; Norm Katz; Helen Granger, The Independent; and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers by Mayor Corey at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to accept the previous regular meeting minutes dated March 21, 2005 as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson, Runyan, Spring, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to approve the agenda with the removal of Item No. 2) Consider Parks & Recreation Commission Request to Allow Parking on the Grass During City Wide Garage Sale, change Item 3 to Item 2 and Item 4 to Item 3, and with the addition of Item No. 4) Set Public Hearing for April 18, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. to Consider Amendments to Section 50-139 (Discharge of Fireworks or Explosives) and Section 50-142 (Manufacture, Possession and Sale of Firecrackers, Rockets, Sparklers), Item No 5) Set Dates for 2005/2006 Budget Workshops and, Item No. 6) Consider Recommendation from the Labor Committee for Opening Window for Early Retirement, and Item No. 7) Consider Appointment of Charles Spring to the SATA Reorganization Committee.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Spring, Runyan, Mehigh, Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to approve the vendor disbursements as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Wagner, Spring, Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Judy Horton thanked Councilpersons Sanderson and Mehigh and Shirley Sanderson for helping at the Easter pancake breakfast.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Joe Sawyer reviewed the city calendar with the council.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF JOHN AUSTIN TO THE CEMETERY BOARD: Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to appoint John Austin to the Corunna Cemetery Board to serve at the pleasure of the council for a term to begin upon the taking of the oath of office and continuing indefinitely. Councilperson Johnson stated there was discussion at the last council meeting about the change in the meeting time and asked Mr. Sawyer if he had any new information. Mr. Sawyer advised he spoke to Mr. Lulham and a few other parties and received conflicting information so this item is still under review. Mr. Sawyer further advised he would be writing an administrative policy about how meeting dates and times are to be changed in order to prevent this from happening in the future.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson, Spring, Wagner, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER TRANSFER OF TAVERN LICENSE WITH ENTERTAINMENT PERMIT FROM LITTLE CAESARS ENTERPRISES, INC. TO CORUNNA PIZZA MGT, LLC: Mehigh moved, Sanderson seconded to approve the transfer of the Tavern License with Entertainment Permit from Little Caesars Enterprises, Inc. to Corunna Pizza Mgt., LLC.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehigh, Spring, Runyan, Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

SET PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 50-139 (DISCHARGE OF FIREWORKS OR EXPLOSIVES) AND SECTION 50-142 (MANUFACTURE, POSSESSION AND SALE OF FIRECRACKERS, ROCKETS, SPARKLERS): Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to set a public hearing to consider amendments to Section 50-139 (Discharge of Fireworks or Explosives) and Section 50-142 (Manufacture, Possession and Sale of Firecrackers, Rockets, Sparklers) for April 18, 2005 at 7:30 p.m.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson, Runyan, Spring, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

SET MEETING DATES FOR 2005/2006 BUDGET WORKSHOPS: The following meeting dates were set for the 2005/2006 Budget Workshops: April 19 & April 21 at 7 p.m. at city hall, April 25 at 6:30 p.m. at city hall, May 3 & May 5 at 7 p.m. at the Olmsted Room in the Olmsted Public Library Complex.

CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION FROM THE LABOR COMMITTEE FOR OPENING WINDOW FOR EARLY RETIREMENT: Mr. Sawyer advised this item has been under consideration for over six months. The police chief requested this to be confidential so this is the first time that this information has come forward. Mr. Sawyer further advised there were some issues regarding health insurance and how the insurance would affect retirees under the new administrative policy in the police chief's letter from last October so a meeting was held with the health insurance company and the city received an insurance proposal that is in line with the city's administrative manual. Mr. Sawyer also advised he

received an updated letter from the police chief last Friday requesting a retirement window to be opened, which he would be eligible for in a year and one-half anyway. The police chief is not asking the city to purchase any additional time but is asking the city to lessen the age requirement because he has adequate time but not the age requirement. Mr. Sawyer explained the additional cost for MERS to open the retirement window would be \$1,409 per year. The administrative manual as of November 2004 has a retirement health insurance package that provides health insurance for the employee and his or her spouse and if there were additional family members needing coverage, the employee would be responsible for any increase in costs from a two person to a full family plan. He further explained the retiree would be under the same policy as an active employee so in addition to making up the difference for a family plan or college student the retiree would also have to pay the same co-pay that an active employee pays. The police chief has requested that a one-time exception be made to the health insurance plan, which is to have the city financially participate in the full family plan for a two-year period and then the plan would revert back to the two person plan and the estimated cost would be about \$3,000 over the two year period or \$125.00 per month. Mr. Sawyer also explained he felt the request was reasonable especially for a person with a newborn. Under MERS rules, the retirement window has to be open for a minimum of 60 days, has to start on the first of the month and end the last day of the month and has to occur within 12 months of the actuarial study, which was done on December 2, 2004. Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to approve a MERS Resolution establishing a retirement window for the Chief of Police classification as per the MERS Actuarial Valuation dated December 2, 2004 with window period from April 1, 2005 through May 31, 2005 and to approve the request for full family premium participation as per active employees (Section 6.5 of the City of Corunna Administrative Manual) for a two-year period only, reverting back to Section 6.15 of the City of Corunna Administrative Manual for Retirees two years from the date of retirement or May 31, 2007, whichever occurs first.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Wagner, Spring, Sanderson, Mehig, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF CHARLES SPRING TO THE SATA REORGANIZATION

COMMITTEE: Johnson moved, Sanderson seconded to appoint Councilperson Charles Spring as the Corunna representative to the SATA Reorganization Committee with Mayor Steve Corey as an alternate.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehig, Johnson, Spring, Wagner, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER DISCHARGE OF MORTGAGE FOR THOMAS J. CHAFFEE AND P.T.L. LAND

MANAGEMENT, LLC: Johnson moved, Sanderson seconded to approve the Discharge of Mortgage with P.T.L. Land Management, LLC on the Strawsine Industrial Complex upon verification by the city attorney.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner, Mehig, Runyan, Spring.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Mayor Corey thanked Norm Katz for donating the Strawsine Industrial Complex to the city because without this donation the city would not have the money to develop its industrial property. The city hopes to use this money along with matching funds to get utilities out to the industrial property. Mr. Katz stated it was quite remarkable to see what the city has done to the Strawsine Industrial Complex in the 15 months the city has owned the property because the object is to develop economically and culturally. When the city received the grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to build the boat launch, it also improved the quality of life for the people who live here. He further stated it has given him great joy to see what the city has done with the property and thanked the city for using his gift so well and wished the city continued success.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Councilperson Mehigh advised he had nothing to discuss.

Councilperson Spring stated gravel is all over the road at State Street and Mizner Street and asked if the gravel could be picked up or brushed to the side of the street. He asked what the status on the Industrial Park Sign was. Mr. Sawyer advised the sale of the Strawsine Industrial Park Complex would give the city the money to make this project happen. Doug Edwards has recommended that the city buy the boards needed to repair the sign, cut them to size, and paint them and he would provide the lettering to put on the sign. Mayor Corey advised he thought one part of the issue was that the city did not have the equipment to lift someone up to put the boards up. Mr. Sawyer stated he assumes Mike Sarrazin would put the boards up. Mayor Corey advised the city council has already approved \$2,500 to fix the sign.

Councilperson Runyan advised the MML Regional Meeting would be held in Standish on April 28 if anyone was interested in going.

Councilperson Johnson advised the planning commission finished the Sign Ordinance. She further advised Tim Gibson, a Corunna-Caledonia fireman, is running for Mr. Owosso this year for Friends of Hospice.

Councilperson Wagner stated the Easter egg hunt was nice. There were quite a few people in the park.

Councilperson Sanderson asked Mr. Sawyer if he had approached the school to find out if they want to put the basketball thing back up on the industrial park sign. Mr. Sawyer advised no the basketball portion seems to be in pretty good shape.

Mayor Corey thanked Mayor Pro-Tem Runyan for taking over while he was gone. He reminded council about the D.A.R.E. graduation on April 14. The lock on the door to the council room is loose and needs to be tightened up.

ADJOURN: Johnson moved, Spring seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehigh, Spring, Runyan, Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 8:00 p.m.

STEVE COREY, MAYOR

YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK